Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8981

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FOR: DEP. FOR S/PS, NCS FOR MR. SCOWCROFT AND WHITEHOUSE FOR MR. NESSEN, RUEHFO FOR IPS/PL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT. DEPARTURE STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY

KISSINGER, MRS. CARTER, AND JACK FORD

FOLLOWING ARE THE REMARKS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER; MRS. CARTER; AND JACK FORD DURING DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO CITY, BENITO JUAREZ AIRPORT, DECEMBER 2, 1976.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

NANCY AND I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR GREAT PLEASURE AT BEING ABLE TO HAVE BEEN HERE ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF YOUR NEW PRESIDENT. OUR TWO COUNTRIES SYMBOLIZE MANY OF THE CHALLENGES OF OUR PERIOD. WE REPRESENT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT HISTORIES. WE ARE DEVELOPED. MEXICO IS ALMOST DEVELOPED. WE SOMETIMES GO THOUGH DIFFICULTIES THAT AFFECT EACH OTHER. BUT BASICALLY THE PROGRESS OF EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF DIGNITY, OF RESPECT AND EQUALITY. WE WERE VERY IMPRESSED BY THE COURAGEOUS AND FARSIGHTED SPEECH OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO WORK WITH MEXICO ON THE SOLUTION OF ALL OUR COMMON PROBLEMS. LET ME TAKE THIS PERSONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SAY HOW MEANINGFUL IT WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR NANCY AND ME TO BE HERE IN THIS COUNTRY THAT WE LOVE

SO MUCH AND WHICH WE ARE CERTAIN TO VISIT OFTEN AGAIN.

NOW WE HAVE HAD THE GREAT HONOR THAT MRS. CARTER, THE WIFE OF OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT, HAS ALSO BEEN HERE AT THE INAUGURATION WHICH SYMBOLIZES CONTINUITY OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND TO MRS. CARTER THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE. I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF MRS. CARTER WOULD SAY A FEW WORDS.

MRS. CARTER:

IT HAS BEEN A VERY SPECIAL HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE IN MEXICO AT THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORICAL TIME OF THE TRANSFER OF POWERS' CEREMONY WHICH WERE MOST IMPRESSIVE AND I WANT TO THANK BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR THEIR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY TO ME. I BRING TO THEM JIMMY'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I TAKE HOME TO HIM THE WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP WITH WHICH I HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. I EXTEND TO THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO MY BEST WISHES FOR MUCH SUCCESS IN THE COMING YEARS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

BIREF Q. AND A. FOLLOWS:

Q. SOME MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGRESS HAVE INDICATED THAT MEXICO WAS ONE ITS WAY TO COMMUNISM. DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF THE FACTS.

A. THIS IS NOT THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION. IT'S NOT THE VIEW OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND IT CANNOT BE HELD BY ANYBODY WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT MEXICO.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION MR. SECRETARY OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AT THE TIME OF THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS?

AS I POINTED OUT IT WAS A VERY FARSIGHTED, VERY COURAGEOUS AND A VERY COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT MEXICO FACES AND THE UNITED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATES WILL ALWAYS COOPERATE WITH MEXICO IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF ITS FUTURE.

A. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE SON OF OUR PRESIDENT, JACK FORD WHO CAME HERE AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS FATHER.

JACK FORD:

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ADD ANYTHING MORE TO THE WORDS OF DR. KISSINGER AND MRS. CARTER OTHER THAN TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL SATISFACTION, ENJOYMENT AND A GREAT WARMTH THAT I RECEIVED ON MY VISIT HERE AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF MY FATHER WHO HAS ALWAYS FELT VERY CLOSE TO OUR MEXICAN NEIGHBOR AND LOOKS FORWARD TO EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN THE FUTURE WORKING TOWARDS HELPING, INCREASING AND BUILDING ON THE UNDERSTANDING OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE.

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THE REMARKS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER:

TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

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